

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-16 are currently pending. Claims 1-3 and 9-14, which are independent, are hereby amended. Applicants submit that claims 1-3 and 9-14 are hereby amended and that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 are overcome.

No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which the Applicant is entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite. Claims 1-3 and 9-14 are hereby amended, obviating the rejection.

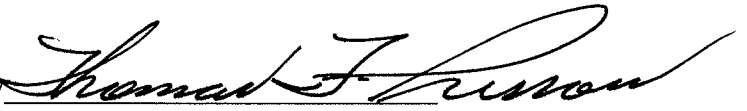
Applicants submit that claims 1-16 are patentable and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
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